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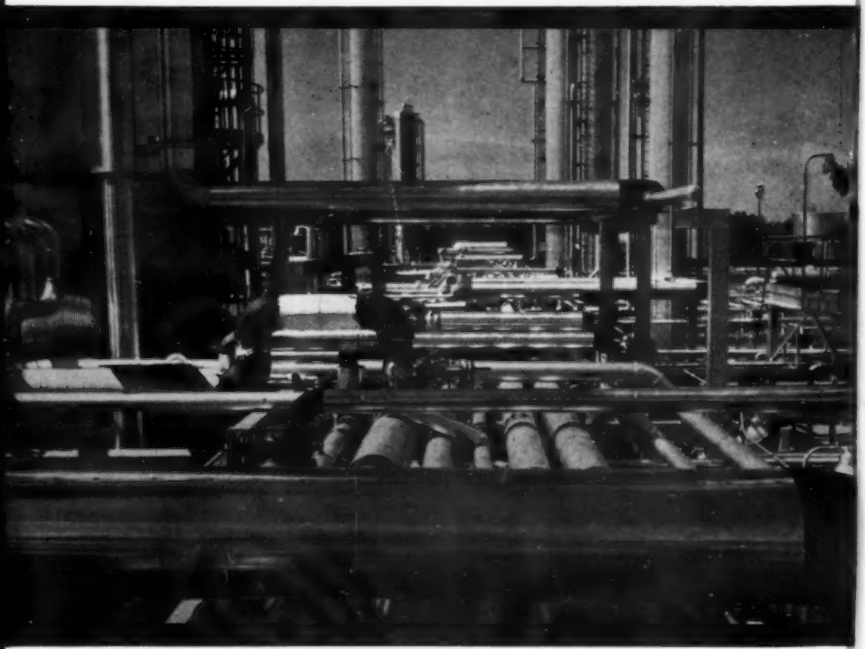

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SMALL ASBESTOS PROJECTS

(The question of the economic exploitation of the many minor asbestos deposits is considered in view of the apparent dwinding resources of the raw material. by: W. E. Sinclair, M.I.M.M.)

The steady demand for fibre to satisfy world requirements, both in the manufacture of asbestos products and in allied industries, points to the need for the establishment of substantial resources.

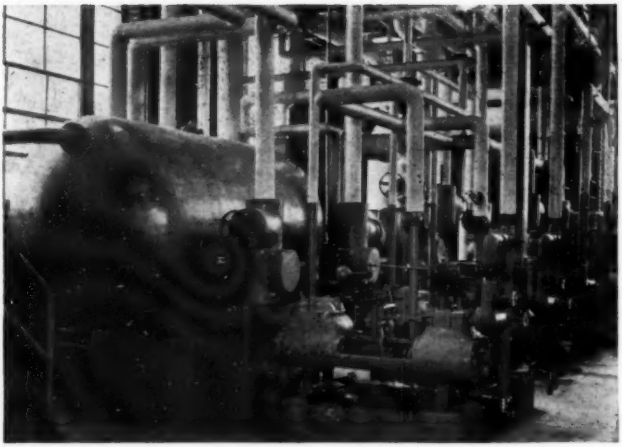
This was clearly shown in a recent article (''Asbestos Reserves and Resources'', by the Author, published in ''ASBESTOS'', Sept. 1955) in which the consumption of available supplies is compared to the known resources of asbestos and the estimated world resources.

From this review it would seem that the latent supplies are insufficient to satisfy world requirements in the next fifty years. In the circumstances it is interesting to consider means of closing the ever widening gap between tonnage wanted and that available.

First, of course, one naturally thinks of the rigorous employment of efficient productive methods, which will not only benefit producers themselves, but will ensure maximum recovery from the primary source. This conception, obviously, should be normal practice in every productive undertaking. It is more generally stressed in the manufacturing sphere where, in addition, special study is given to the aspect of systems that secure the highest quality products with frugality in expenditure and the minimum of waste. In every enterprise, after all, material wasted is equal to labor and money lost. Avoidance of any such palpable wastage by producers and manufacturers spells not only advantages in economy but the extension and increase of resources as well.

I have already suggested that shortage of any mineral commodity usually creates a natural impetus in exploring and prospecting for new sources of supply. Also, known deposits of uncertain worth or those of marginal value, immediately receive closer attention. Indeed, in these circumstances it is not unlikely that unknown areas will also be explored by geophysical methods or by boring or both.

The proving of ore reserves ahead of production zones



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is normal procedure in most operating concerns, and this practice would naturally be extended with a view to establishing increased reserves where necessary.

There is one aspect of the position, however, that deserves closer consideration, and that is the great number of small deposits that are frequently found in scattered localities in many parts of the world. In America, both North and South, more small deposits of chrysotile and amphibole asbestos occur than large ones. In Southern Africa, and particularly in Rhodesia and the Union, the majority of occurrences of both amosite and crocidolite and even chrysotile are small concerns. The same may be said of Australia, Europe and the Asian Continent. With the exception of Russia, most of the known asbestos deposits, although widely distributed, consist mainly of minor projects.

A great number of these are being successfully exploited but many are only worked spasmodically. Some are barely profitable and for this reason many are wasteful operations because only the highest priced fibre is recovered and the rest discarded. In many instances small deposits are standing unworked.

The scattered nature of these deposits and the limited tonnage contained in some, are possibly the main reasons for the lack of interest to the financially strong company. Never-the-less many contain high quality fibre, albeit in some cases the geological structure responsible for the scattered nature of such deposits has resulted in irregular forms of fibre deposition. The fact remains, however, that in these areas there exists a considerable potential reserve of asbestos of various varieties. The relatively few projects that are being worked, usually by small producers, cannot be said to be highly profitable undertakings, on the contrary, the profit margin in most cases is limited

The case of the small producer was sadly reflected in the recent mild depression in the industry, when, following a sudden fall in price and demand for fibre, many mines were unable to continue economic production and were forced to curtail operations or actually close down.

The existing high cost structure is probably the main cause of high working costs and unpayability, especially when market prices are unstable. It is fairly obvious that

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apart from the influence of various physical conditions, often more common in minor deposits, working costs, on small mines, are characterized by high wages in one case and costly supplies on the other plus such factors as working methods and auxiliary constituents unavoidable in small workings.

Also, marketing is often a difficulty experienced by small producers, a handicap that is aggravated when transport problems enter into the picture.

It is an indisputable fact that the easiest means of overcoming the drawbacks and handicaps of mines like the above is the amalgamation of several concerns under one controlling company. Indeed the consolidation of several small propositions has been proved very successful in a number of instances. To quote one, there is the example of the consolidation of several small companies in Rhodesia in 1929. There are other cases, but despite the very extensive development of small mines in different fields in recent years the scheme of grouping has, unfortunately not proved attractive. This is regrettable since it is only in this way that some standardized system of large scale operations can be introduced with a view to lowering unit costs, especially where one centralized mill can treat the ore from the different sections.

To meet the demand for better quality asbestos, graded according to standard specifications, the idea of a form of custom mill has been suggested as a step forward in small mining areas. A solution to such a suggestion, which would bring the small producer direct benefits, is the plan of combining to run one community mill. In this way the capital cost would be spread among those responsible. In the case of the independent custom mill, treating ore from a number of scattered mines, capital outlay is entirely avoided by the concerns supporting it.

The technique of clean and efficient extraction methods plus the initial cost of up-to-date milling equipment to achieve the desired results have together, in many cases, constituted the principal drawback to economic production. There is no doubt that suitably designed mills ensure a regular demand and higher prices for the producer, which probably assists considerably in offsetting the high

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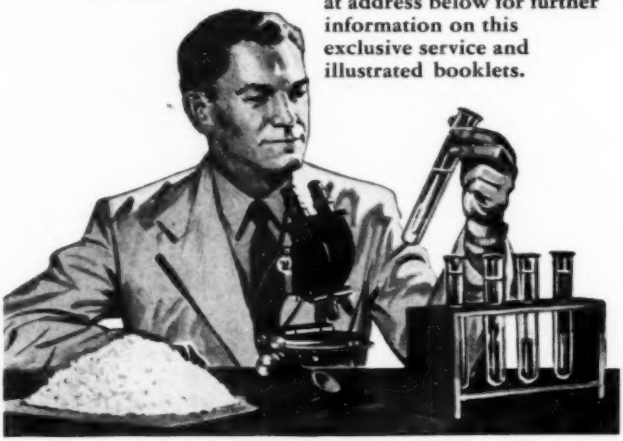

Asbestos Fibre Division

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production costs today.

Milling costs on small propositions represent a substatial part of both capital charges and operational costs. In addition to the normal economies affected by efficient running and maintenance in the plant itself, milling costs can also be reduced by increasing the value of the mill feed, especially by the elimination of waste material. This, of course, usually visualizes the preliminary removal of waste from the ore by intensive sorting, following a method of first knapping the ore where possible. Sorting is common practice as a preparatory milling function everywhere and as such is of extreme importance.

Knapping or cobbing the ore as a preliminary step to cleaner sorting is important if for one reason only, that is, that it eliminates, to a great extent, the possible loss in sorting when rock containing fibre is discarded as waste. Knapping can, in certain circumstances, be successfully applied in mining operations, especially where methods employed prevent excessive dilution of the ore with unwanted waste. A suitable system of selective mining along such lines introduces a further advantage in automatically increasing the value of the ground broken by up-grading the ore recovered, and incidentally, stepping up the mill grade.

The economies to be gained by the practice of a mining system that permits of sorting at the face, followed by knapping and further sorting are of vital importance. In most large scale operations conditions are favorable for the introduction of a system that allows for some form of sorting. In many small propositions the main difficulty is the restricted number of working faces, sometimes due to lack of advance development and proved reserves. In some cases the geological structure of small deposits results in an irregular form of fibre deposition, which may restrict the introduction of a regular standard mining system. In these the cheapest method to give the best result must be applied and in such circumstances, a system can usually be devised to permit of sorting and knapping. Unlike the working of large scale systems, however, close daily attention must be given to operations. In these cases, local conditions are usually a safe directive to economic procedure.

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Nevertheless even the most effective method demands efficiency studies in greater detail, reliable supervision and preventative measures against wastage of both ore and materials.

Prior to the productive stage, however, the first essential in every mine is the systematic development of the orebody. This is a real difficulty in some small irregular deposits. A reserve or 'life' must be proved since this provides a basis upon which the whole structure of the proposition is built, and also enables the planning and establishment of the most efficient and cheapest methods of working.

As already mentioned marketing is often a function that determines the success or otherwise of small undertakings. Most of the major producers today own their own factories or have a fixed mine-to-factory contract with manufacturers. By contrast, small producers must find an outlet for their asbestos on the open market. Manufacturers are limited in their demands, not only by the capacity of their factories but by the quality and grades of asbestos they need to make the products in which they specialize. In this respect it is also to the advantage of the producer to know in what form his fibre is preferred for the fabrication of certain commodities.

The production of grades satisfactory to the manufacturer's requirements is a vital step in establishing an assured demand at a better price. Moreover, it makes for settled working conditions which are an essential part to payability. Since profitable working depends not only on operating costs, but on the price obtained for the product won, even with stable selling prices a regular output and outlet for the asbestos produced is a factor of no little importance.

The capital necessary to provide power and the means to carry out initial development and construction constitutes a handicap to the successful launching of many small projects. If some form of financial subsidy could be provided to initially establish a proposition, there is a fair chance that profitable exploitation of many small deposits would present no insurmountable difficulties.

Gold Bond

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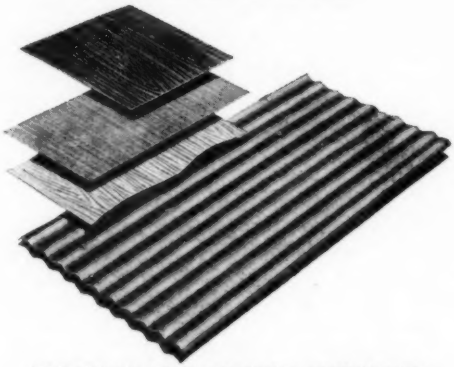

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Considering the valuable potential of such ore deposits, both in quality and in the quantity of latent supplies they contain, it seems almost certain that given a good start and considered methods of solving inherent difficulties, they would doubtless contribute considerably to the present demand and serve as a substantial source of future supplies.

TRANSMISSION OVERHAUL KITS ANNOUNCED BY RAYBESTOS

Automatic transmission master overhaul kits for passenger cars equipped with Hydra-Matics are being introduced by the Raybestos Division of Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., Bridgeport, Conn.

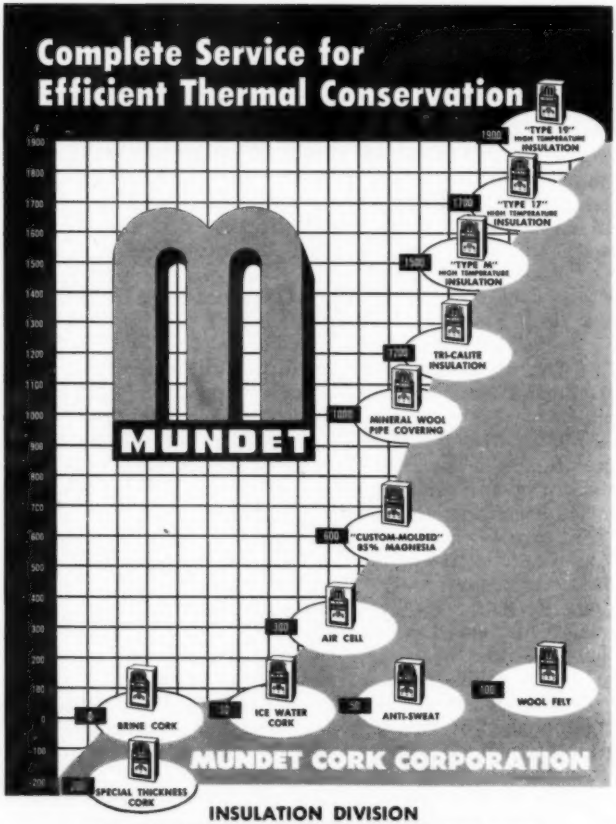
Each kit has the parts engineers say are necessary to do a first-class job. Parts included in each Raybestos master overhaul kit are: friction discs; spacer plates; gaskets; front and rear clutch piston seals and expanders; reverse clutch piston seal; front oil pump seal; and rear bearing oil seal. Only fast moving parts are packaged in the Raybestos master overhaul kit.

A big saving in time is possible because automatic transmission parts are now available in one master overhaul kit by Raybestos. When overhauling an automatic transmission. these parts should always be replaced.

James L. McGovern, Jr., sales manager replacement products, reports that master overhaul kits for makes of automatic transmissions other than Hydra-Matic will be available to jobbers within the near future.

"Tomorrow's Products Are Tomorrow's Markets" has been set as the theme for the first Design Engineering Show, at Convention Hall, Philadelphia, May 14-17. More than 12,000 visitors, representing every major industry, are expected to see exhibits valued at $2,000,000.

The machine design division of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers will sponsor a conference on design engineering to coincide with the show.



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REPORT ON ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

Magnesia Insulation Manufacturers Ass'n

The Magnesia Insulation Manufacturers Association held its twelfth annual meeting recently and re-elected Ernest Muehleck, president of Keasbey & Mattison Company, chairman of the board of governors. Mr. Muehleck announced the establishment of a Manufacturing Committee and a change in the name of the Technical Committee to the Engineering and Research Committee.

Other officers re-elected for the year 1956 are: A. M. Ehret, Jr., president of Ehret Magnesia Manufacturing Company, vice chairman, and J. A. O'Brien, vice president of Johns-Manville, treasurer.

The Manufacturing Committee will resolve the practical manufacturing problems of new products and product improvements recommended by the Engineering and Research Committee. It will study quality control techniques, investigate new packaging and shipping methods and standards, and conduct other related activities in the interest of insulation users and the industry.

Utley W. Smith, sales manager of Ehret Magnesia Manufacturing Company and former manager of MIMA, was named chairman of the Engineering and Research Committee succeeding R. C. Parlett, chief engineer, Industrial Insulations Division of Johns-Manville Sales Corporation. William P. Gibbons, advertising manager, industrial products, Johns-Manville, was appointed chairman of the Publicity Committee to succeed Walter C. Dodge, advertising manager of Keasbey & Mattison. A chairman of the Manufacturing Committee will be elected by the committee members.

The Engineering and Research Committee, Mr. Muehleck stated, will handle standardization and specification development, research on application techniques and supplementary materials such as adhesives, finishes and fasteners, and, in cooperation with the Manufacturing Committee, product development and research.

The Publicity Committee will expand the association's information and educational services designed to encourage more effective and economical insulating practices.

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. . . AND THE ROAD AHEAD

The year 1955 was a memorable one for National Gypsum. It marked the Company's 30th Anniversary. . . . three decades of steady growth in the building industry — a growth that surmounted depression, recessions and wars.

It was an appropriate time to reflect on their progress in those 30 years — how they grew from an obscure, one-plant one-product concern in 1925 to a nationally known, respected organization that could now boast of more than 250 Gold Bond Products and record-breaking annual sales of $150 million.

If there has been one single influencing factor which has towered above all others during that period, it has been faith . . . faith in their business, in their ability to make better building products, in the loyalty of their customers and, most of all, faith in the future of America.

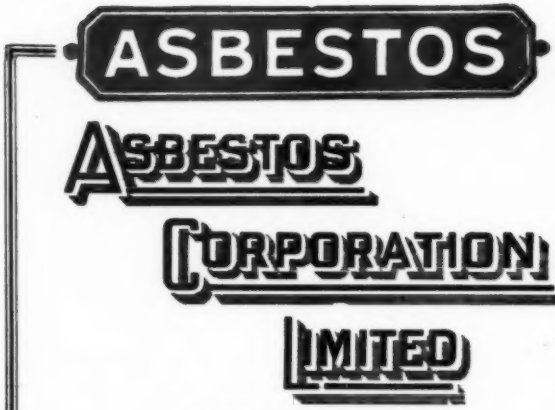
This same abiding faith will continue to shape their progress in the years that lie ahead. And they will be vigorous, prosperous years because America's building needs are great. National Gypsum is ready to answer those needs with new products, new uses for familiar, time-tested products, new techniques and systems.

Even now, the curtain is about to be lifted on two developments from their Research Laboratory. Market surveys indicate that the sales potentials for both will warrant the construction of sizable new manufacturing facilities.

There will be additions to their line of rock wool products, new and broader uses for asbestos fibres, justifying the development of their Canadian mining and processing operation. There will be an expanded line in insulation board products, new designs in acoustical ceiling tiles improved paint products, and many other developments.

Nor has manpower been neglected. Young men of the postwar period — now seasoned and experienced — have moved into key positions. Their places have been filled by moving up younger qualified personnel all along the line. The entire organization — sales, operating, research and finance — has been strengthened and realigned.

National Gypsum is ready, indeed, for the "road ahead."



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FIVE POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES APPOINTED AT NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

Five young scientists who have shown special promise of becoming creative leaders in basic research have been awarded Postdoctoral Research Associateships for advanced study at the National Bureau of Standards. The associateship program is sponsored jointly by the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council and NBS.

The men, who have either received or shortly will be awarded their Ph.D. degrees are scheduled to start work at NBS this year. They are: Earl C. Beaty, St. Louis, Mo.; Dr. Tucker Carrington, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; Dr. Marvin Marcus, Vancouver, Canada; Robert A. Piccirelli, Washington, D. C.; and Wesley A. Robinson, Seattle, Washington.

The Research Associates will work under the direct supervision of scientists who are specialists in the associates' chosen fields. In addition to acquiring a wider basic knowledge, the Research Associates will have opportunities to work with and develop new scientific approaches and laboratory techniques. They also will be in close contact with other NBS scientists and the National and international scientific leaders with whom the Bureau is associated.

Postdoctoral study and research lasting for a year or more is a tradition among scientists. Many of the country's scientific leaders used such work to round out their education before settling on the field of research for which they are best known. In recent years the number of opportunities for postdoctoral appointments has not kept up the need; in fact, one of the most sought after fellowships in the physical sciences in existence since World War I has been discontinued.

Recognizing this need, the National Academy of Sciences and the Bureau worked out the research associateship program to provide advanced training for promising young American scientists. The associateships were first announced in 1954. This year some 20 areas of study at NBS were made available to the applicants.

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ASPHALT AND ASBESTOS BUILDING MATERIALS

HUYCK NEEDLED FELTS IN USE FOR PAST 1½ YEARS

F. C. Huyck & Sons' needled asbestos cement felts have been operating successfully in the field for the past year and a half. In a recent discussion of the new Huyck felts, Grenville R. Holden, President of F. C. Huyck & Sons, said that they are being used regularly in mills producing asbestos cement shingles, millboard and other allied products. He pointed out that needled felts were first introduced some years ago by a company which developed the technique and manufactured only this type of felt. Although some problems still existed, their improved performance as compared with woven felts gained for them almost universal acceptance in the asbestos cement industry.

Through this period, F. C. Huyck & Sons' engineers worked extensively on the development of felts which would make available another source of supply to the asbestos cement industry. Woven felts, although promising, failed in general to meet finish requirements and still retain the desirable operating characteristics. Hence, about three years ago, Huyck established a program aimed at developing a needled felt which would overcome some of the existing operating problems. This work was carried on independently of anyone previously associated with the manufacture of needled felts. Working with machine builders, Huyck engineers designed needling equipment and developed techniques which were applied in the construction of experimental felts.

With the cooperation of several leading manufacturers of asbestos cement products, field trials were started in 1954 and carried out extensively throughout 1955.

Basically, the manufacturing process consists of needling a fibre bat into a loosely woven base fabric. Depending upon individual mill and machine conditions, various blends of wool, cotton and synthetic fibres are used in both the base and the surface.

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Mr. Holden stated that the development work was completed in 1955 and that conclusive evidence of the excellent performance of the new Huyck felts has been accumulated in a number of representative mills. They are available in widths up to 100" and in quantities normally required by the asbestos cement industry.

SEISMOLOG

A lightweight, portable seismograph for use in recording and analyzing impact vibrations in industry and construction work has been developed by Vibration Measurement Engineers, Chicago, pioneers in applying seismology to industrial problems.

The seismic instrument, called Sesimolog, is particularly applicable to industrial operations involving the use of commercial explosives. With the Seismolog positive, irrefutable evidence of scientifically measured earth tremors are photographically recorded. The records are kept on file by Vibration Measurement Engineers through statute of limitations periods in the event of lawsuits arising from blasting operations.

In addition to commercial blasting operations, such as quarries, mines, tunneling, sewer, water and highway construction, and dredging, Seismolog records impact vibrations from piledriving, forge, punch and drop presses and other operations where ground tremors and vibrations results.

The Seismolog was made portable with a 2-section, low voltage battery pack designed for the instrument by General Dry Batteries, Inc., Cleveland, for use in remote areas where standard 60 cycle 110 A. C. electrical currents were not available.

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MARKET CONDITIONS

GENERAL BUSINESS.

General business continues good in practically all lines Some declines in production of automobiles and other consumers' durable goods have occurred but the output of capital equipment has increased and the total of industrial production continues steady at a high level. It is now felt that a substantial increase in residential building lies ahead, provided tightening of credit does not unduly impede progress in this line. Current predictions are that the remainder of 1956 will bring considerably better business than was generally thought probable a few months ago.

ASBESTOS — RAW MATERIAL.

The usual Spring pick-up in fibre demand is again in evidence and appears common to all principal asbestos consumers.

Good balanced inventories have been accumulated during the winter months and with present production facilities, ample supplies will be available for the opening of navigation expected in mid April.

The 5% increase in business experienced during the winter months is expected to increase to 10% during the summer.

ASBESTOS — MANUFACTURED GOODS.

Asbestos Textiles. The textile market was reasonably strong for the first quarter but quite competitive. The demand for 1956 should be in excess of last year, but will fall far short of being sufficient to satisfy the producer's needs for efficient production. The wire industry is still running at a faster rate than normal for this time of year.

Asbestos Brake Lining. Replacement sales are running well ahead of last year. January being a better month than February. Sales should be up 15 to 20% over last year. Equipment sales (parts) should be off in same ratio compared to the past year.

Asbestos Paper. The demand is steady although below production capacity. The volume for this material should increase over the balance of the year due to several new developments which require the use of asbestos paper.

CANADIAN ASBESTOS

THE NICOLET ASBESTOS MINE
Norbestos (via Warwick)
Que.

Address Inquiries to:

NICOLET INDUSTRIES, INC.

ASBESTOS FIBRE DIVISION

70 Pine Street

New York 5, New York

There has been little change in the *Millboard* market from the last several months. Demand continues at a good rate reflecting continued high activity in the appliance and construction fields where Millboard is used. *Saturated Paper* market appears to be normal for this time of year with business slightly increasing due to improved weather conditions.

Insulation. High Pressure. There appears to be a slight improvement in order bookings. This is occasioned by the recent price increase which was forced by rising costs rather than any easement of the competitive situation. This remains highly competitive both as regards FOB sales and contract work.

Insulation. Low Pressure. The demand continues good, reflecting the high degree of activity in commercial and institutional building. It is anticipated that the volume for low pressure during the succeeding months will be slightly better than last year.

Asbestos Cement Products. Due to recent price increase, orders on file to be shipped are above normal. Some slow-down is expected because of this, but business should pick up again with good weather.

The roofing and siding business was slow the first two months of the year but March reflected more activity and volume.

The market for corrugated and flat showed increasing activity but highly competitive.

The market for all types of asbestos-cement pipes continue to increase but not as fast as in past years due to the continued winter weather.

The above comments have been made by various informed executives in the Industry. All comments are welcome.

KEASBEY & MATTISON CO.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors, *Robert R. Porter* was elected a Director and appointed Executive Vice President of the company.

Since resigning from the U. S. Marine Corps, Mr. Porter's activities have been as Sales Engineer with the Cleveland Graphite Bronze Co., Vice President and Sales Manager of Ford Instrument Co., and with Turner & Newall, Ltd., of England.

FLINTKOTE MINES LIMITED

View of site at Thetford Mines, Quebec

Modern, self-propelled drilling equipment

Electric shovel and huge diesel truck at the Flintkote Thetford Mine

Flintkote... a major asbestos producer ... now offers asbestos fibres for sale. Inquiries should be addressed to

Flintkote Mines Limited
(subsidiary of The Flintkote Company)
Thetford Mines, Quebec, Canada

BUILDING

At least eight new high records were set by the latest dollar totals of Dodge Reports of contract awards for future construction in the 37 eastern states, according to F. W. Dodge Corporation.

The February total of $1,859,737,000 was a record, up 18 percent over February last year. The first two-month total of $3,717,965,000 was a record, up 21 percent over the like period of last year. These gains are noteworthy because the first two months of last year showed even more sizable percentage gains over the corresponding period of 1954, a Dodge spokesman said.

All three of Dodge's major classifications set new high records both for February and for any first two months.

For February: Non-residential, $630,054,000, up 18 percent over February 1955; residential, $799,271,000, up seven percent; heavy engineering, $430,412,000, up 42 percent.

For two months: Non-residential, $1,291,329,000, up 17 percent; residential, $1,493,663,000, up six percent; heavy engineering, $932,973,000, up 69 percent.

New Contract award information covering the first two months of 1956 indicates that the construction industry got off to a much better start this year than most analysts expected.

ESTIMATOR WANTED

Experienced Estimator wanted by Phila. Contractor on insulation quantity take-off from specifications and prints for Industrial and Commercial heating, plumbing, and air conditioning systems. Write qualifications, salary, and when available to Box No. 4P-P, "ASBESTOS," 807 Western Saving Fund Building, Philadelphia 7, Pa.

Now . . .
starting from the usual
WET ASBESTOS-CEMENT SHEET

ANEWLY-DEVELOPED LINE OF MACHINERY

(Patents Marchioli & Gremigni)

for manufacturing

FITTINGS

OF EVERY SHAPE AND DIMENSION

—TOUGH
—RESILIENT
—COMPACT
—WATERPROOF

PLANTS ALREADY IN OPERATION IN OUTSTANDING FACTORIES

Inquiries for Details, Quotations and References are welcome.

ING. G. MARCHIOLI
22 Morgagni, Milan, Italy
Cable: MINITA—MILANO **Phone: 26 67 27**

NEW SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON NAVY RESEARCH PROGRESS

A new source of research information in many fields of industrial interest, the Naval Research Laboratory's monthly Report of NRL Progress, is now available to the public for the first time, it has been announced by John C. Green, Director of the Office of Technical Services, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C. Office of Technical Services will handle distribution of the publication.

Each issue contains articles and "problem notes" concerning NRL non-classified research and development in progress. Through this publication private businesses and laboratories can keep up with a variety of current Navy research projects, shortcomings discovered and advancements made in materials and methods, and ideas for new technological developments and innovations. They can also avoid duplication of research already done or in progress for the Navy.

January and February issues are listed for sale in March in OTS's monthly publication U. S. Government Research Reports, and a new issue will be available every month. The price of the publication is $1.25 per issue.

A. S. T. M.

The 59th Anuual Meeting, first of the two ASTM meetings that will span the continent this year the Annual Meeting on the East Coast, the Second Pacific Area National Meeting on the West Coast — will be held in Atlantic City, N. J., June 18-22, 1956.

Chalfonte-Haddon Hall Hotel, Headquarters of the meeting, will also house the Twelfth Exhibit of Testing and Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Supplies, and the Tenth Photographic Display and Competition.

WILHELM BURGDORF
Importer of **Raw Asbestos**
P. O. Box 1131, BREMEN, GERMANY

J-M Asbestos Cloth

Johns-Manville weaves the magic mineral, asbestos—great enemy of heat, flame, chemicals and acids—into pliable fabrics. These are serving industry in hundreds of important applications. Made from the longer "spinning fibres," J-M Asbestos Cloth is used in fire blankets, oven and dryer belts, ironer rollers, insulation, protective curtains, electrolytic cells, filter cloths, asbestos clothing, flameproof draperies, theatre safety curtains and countless other products.

Asbestos Cloth is also used combined with other materials contributing exceptional strength and heat resistance. In its wide range of styles you'll find many weaves, thicknesses and weights; with and without wire insertions; suitable for practically every purpose. For more information on J-M Asbestos Textiles write for newly revised illustrated brochure TX-2A. Johns-Manville, Box 60, New York 16, N. Y. In Canada, Port Credit, Ontario.

Johns-Manville ASBESTOS TEXTILES

This advertisement appears in
TT-3424 **Asbestos—May, 1955**

R-M BULLETIN GIVES DATA FOR PRECISION MOLDED PRODUCTS

A new engineering bulletin on precision molded products for automotive, industrial, household applianee, and special applications has been published by the Equipment Sales Division, Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.

A section on engineering design data enables product designers to determine shapes and sizes in which R-M Precision Molded Products can best be produced. Chamfers and radii are illustrated. Machinability and dies are also covered in detail. Additional engineering data is carefully detailed for easy reference.

Listed as Bulletin No. 550, the two-color, 16-page booklet is profusely illustrated. It can be obtained from Equipment Sales Division of Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., 6010 Northwest Highway, Chicago 31, Ill.

TRANSVAAL BLUE FIBRES

FROM:

MALIPSDRIFT ASBESTOS MINE

Apply Sole Distributors:

Mountbridge Exploration & Investment Co. (Pty.) Ltd.

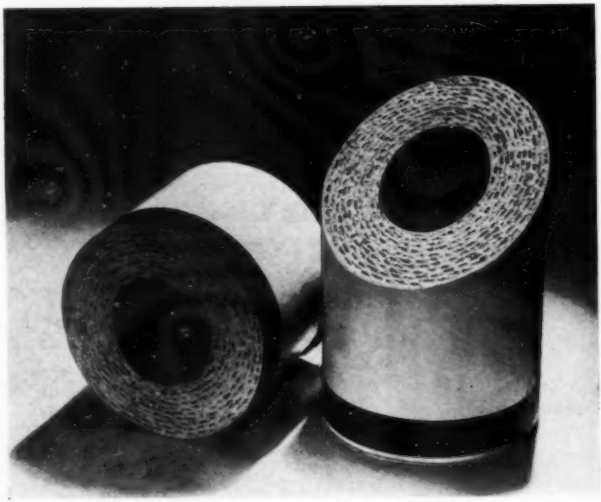
P. O. Box 4421 **Johannesburg**

Union of South Africa

ATLANTIC ASBESTOS CORP.

Manufacturers of Dependable High - Low Pressure Pipe Covering

Established 1934



ATASCO LAMINATED PIPE COVERING

For Temperatures up to 650° F.
Write for attractive prices

Atasco Laminated	Anti-sweat
Atasco Felt	Wool Felt
Atasco Cell	Frost-Proof
Asbestos Aircell	Asbestos Aircell Sheets

Asbestos Paper

2128 Westchester Ave., Bronx 62, New York
***Branch Plant*—Red Hook, N. Y.**

AUTOMOBILE SALES

	February 1956
Passenger Cars	560,924
Motor Trucks	102,384
Motor Coaches	278
	663,586

In February 1955, a total of 744,942 motor vehicles were sold. In the two months of 1956 the total was 1,353,839.

These figures were supplied by the Automobile manufacturers Association, New Center Building, Detroit, Michigan.

PHILLIPS ASBESTOS MINES

Producers of

CRUDES

and

FIBERIZED ASBESTOS

The World's Finest Fibres

DRAWER 71 GLOBE, ARIZONA

Mines and Mills in Gila Co., Arizona

"Tropag"

ASBEST- & ERZIMPORT OSCAR H. RITTER K. G.

Hamburg · — · Ballindamm 7

Importers since 1909 of

ASBESTOS - ORES - MINERALS

BLUE ASBESTOS

Widely known for its resistance to acid and chemical action—is also the strongest, toughest, finest in fiber diameter, most durable of all mineral fibers.

WORLD'S LARGEST SUPPLIER OF BLUE ASBESTOS IS
CAPE BLUE MINES (Pty) Ltd.

Skefko House, Rissik Street, Johannesburg, South Africa
(Mines centered at Koegas, Cape Province)
an associate company of

THE CAPE ASBESTOS CO., Ltd.
114-116 Park Street, London, W.1.

•

For complete information about Blue Asbestos, contact the following Cape Asbestos Co. subsidiaries:

in the United States
NORTH AMERICAN ASBESTOS CORPORATION
Board of Trade Building, Chicago 4, Illinois

In Canada
CAPE ASBESTOS (Canada) Ltd.
200 Bloor Street East, Toronto, Ontario

Canada

(Department of Mines, Province of Quebec)

Tons 2,000 lbs.

Production for January 1956 (Quebec)	55,227 tons
Other Provinces	3,644 tons
	58,871

Total production for January 1955 was 60,966 tons.

Africa (Rhodesia)

(Published by Rhodesia Chamber of Mines)

Tons 2,000 lbs.

Production for November 1955	10,137.21 tons
Vaued at	£627,874
Production for November 1954	6,923.64 tons
Vaued at	£507,814

United States

(From U. S. Bureau of Mines)

The actual figures of production of asbestos in the United States during 1954 have just been received — 47,621 tons; compared with 57,950 tons in 1953.

Vermont remained the principal producing State. Production in Arizona increased mainly because of a substantial use in the sale of shorts. Sales of the better grade remained nearly the same as in 1953.

	1954		1953	
Domestic Asbestos	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
Sold or used by Producers	45,813	$ 4,697,962	54,456	$ 4,857,359
Imports (Unmanufactured)	679,390	55,856,606	692,245	59,753,583
Exports (Unmanufactured)	1,894	291,157	3,076	592,222
Apparent Consumption	724,117	60,263,441	743,625	64,018,720

CENTRAL ASBESTOS CO. LTD.

ABBEY WORKS • ABBEY STREET • LONDON. S. E. 1.

'Phone: BERMONDSEY 3864 Cables: CENBESTOS LONDON

PRODUCERS

PROCESSORS

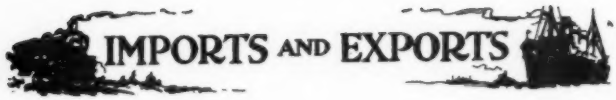
Corner of Our Factory in London Showing Asbestos Awaiting Processing

CAPE BLUE ASBESTOS

- **HIGH TENSILE STRENGTH**
- **HIGH ACID RESISTANCE**
- **STRICT QUALITY CONTROL**

DIRECT FROM THE MINES IN SOUTH AFRICA
OR FROM BUFFER STOCKS IN LONDON

We process to customers' requirements all types of Asbestos
ENQUIRIES WELCOMED FOR
CAPE BLUE TRANSVAAL BLUE • AMOSITE • CHRYSOTILE ETC.



Imports into U.S.A.

(Figures by Bureau of Census)

Unmanufactured Asbestos:

		December 1955 Tons (2240 lbs.)
From:	Canada	51,461
	Union of S. Africa	1,842
	Australia	402
	Rhodesia (Ny)	989
	Other Countries	75
		54,769
	Valued at	$5,655,325

By Grades:

Crude No. 1, Chrysotile, Rhodesia (Ny)	40
Crude, No. 1, Chrysotile, Other Countries	8
Crude No. 2, Chrysotile, Canada	18
Crude No. 2, Chrysotile, Other Countries	18
Crude, Other, Chrysotile, Rhodesia (Ny)	949
Crude, Other, Chrystile, Other Countries	9
Crude, Blue, Australia	402
Crude, Blue, Union of S. Africa	1,216
Crude, Blue, Other Countries	1
Crude, Amosite, U. of S. Africa	626
Textile Fibres, Chysotile, Canada	2,670
Textile Fibres, Chrysotile, Other Countries	39
Shingle Fibres, Chrysotile, Canada	6,414
Paper Fibres, Chrysotile, Canada	5,770
Other Fibres, Chrysotile, Canada	36,589
	54,769

Manufactured Asbestos Goods:

		December 1955 Quantity (lbs.)	Value
Asbestos Yarn, Canada		56,582	$ 51,669
	United Kingdom	41,508	32,666
	Other Countries	2,100	3,152
Asbestos Packing & Lining		11,770	3,605
Asbestos Shingles (Impreg.)		6,433	764
Asbestos Shingles (Not Impreg)			
	Canada	740,040	64,094
	Italy	2,706,598	126,268
	Other Countries	116,136	9,935
Asbestos Manufactures — Others			10,870
		3,681,167	$303,023

BELL ASBESTOS MINES LTD.

THETFORD MINES, QUE.

CANADA

Producers of

Raw Asbestos Crudes

& Fibres

Sales Representatives

for

Cassiar Asbestos Corporation Limited

Exports from U.S.A.

(Figures by Bureau of Census)

Unmanufactured Asbestos:

	December 1955	
	Ton (2240 lbs.)	Value
To Canada	40	$ 4,448
Europe	86	8,127
South America	27	3,885
United Kingdom	70	4,300
Other Countries	35	3,158
	258	$23.918

Manufactured Asbestos Goods:

		December 1955	
		Quantity	Value
Asbestos Cement & Pipe Covg.	Lbs.	813,970	$ 114,430
Asbestos Textiles & Yarn	Lbs.	91,594	67,977
Asbestos Packings	Lbs.	127,920	160,443
Asbestos Clutch Facings	No.	99,488	80,621
Asb. Bk. Lng. (Mld. & S. Mld.)	Lin. Ft.	303,270	90,819
Asbestos Bk. Lining, Rolls	Lin. Ft.	91,532	43,360
Asbestos Bk. Lining — Other	Lbs.	457,630	392,748
Asbestos Construction Materials	Lbs.	1,825,809	159,160
Asbestos Manufactures — Other		.....	34,495
			$1,144,053

Union of South Africa

(Quarterly Information Report — Dept. of Mines)

	3rd Quarter, July, Aug. and Sept. 1955)				
	Production	Local Sales		Exports	
	Tons	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
Amosite	12,933	722	£12,509	10,348	£ 433,143
Anthophyllite	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chrysotile	4,044	724	20,236	3,990	263,661
Cape Blue	8,634	105	7,452	6,111	449,854
Transvaal Blue	3,566	281	14,778	2,612	167,207
	29,177	1,832	£54,975	23,061	£1,313,865

ASBESTOS CEMENT INDUSTRIES OF CEYLON

The full address of the Managing Director of the new asbestos company, rcently formed in Ceylon, the details of which were given in March "ASBESTOS", page 58 is—A. Subrammannian, Esq., The Asbestos Cement Industries Ltd., c/o Mascons Ltd., Amour Street, Colombo 12, Ceylon.

JOHN HOLT & COMPANY INC

17 State St. New York 4, N. Y.

Importers of South African Asbestos

Representing

JOHN HOLT & COMPANY (PTY) LTD.

JOHANNESBURG CAPETOWN

ASBESTOS FIBRES

ASBESTOS WASTE

Frank G. Ruggles Co. Inc.

50 CHURCH STREET

NEW YORK 7, NEW YORK

ROOFING
SIDING and
INSULATION

Reaching and selling the nation's top aggressive contractors each month

SELL YOUR PRODUCT IN RSI

BPA audited circulation of 11,500 representing the highest buying power in the trade.

RSI - 45 West 45th St., New York 36

Exports from Canada

(Published by Dominion Bureau of Statistics)

	December 1955		Year 1955	
	Tons (2000 lbs.)	Value	Tons (2000 lbs.)	Value
Unmanufactured Asbestos:				
Crude				
United States	23	$ 15,556	250	$ 204,927
United Kingdom	46	47,438	112	104,895
South America	....	.....	.....	.....
Central America & Mexico	....	.....	.....	.....
European Countries	15	13,004	195	148,268
Other Countries	....	.....	29	22,523
	84	$ 76,008	586	$ 480,613
Milled				
United States	17,385	$3,040,679	169,107	$28,347,582
United Kingdom	2,385	720,607	37,698	7,694,097
South America	4,513	770,980	24,171	4,308,798
Central America & Mexico	560	93,980	7,257	1,160,233
European Countries	15,945	2,956,420	81,885	14,681,667
Other Countries	5,949	903,141	45,862	7,242,628
	46,737	$8,485,807	365,980	$63,435,005
Shorts				
United States	42,507	$1,940,971	524,212	$24,697,990
United Kingdom	3,152	144,617	38,668	1,677,424
South America	1,269	93,318	7,103	514,901
Central America & Mexico	130	4,952	1,247	65,217
European Countries	10,889	622,305	54,149	3,215,386
Other Countries	2,127	140,371	9,846	717,079
	60,074	$2,945,534	635,261	$30,887,997
Grand Total—Unmanufactured Asbestos	106,895	$11,507,349	1,001,827	$94,803,615
Manufactured Asbestos Goods:				
Brake Lining		$ 39,622		$ 367,451
Packing		17,329		42,316
Other Materials		110,392		2,492,500
		$ 157,343		$2,902,267

C.J. PETROW & CO. (PTY) LTD.

ASBESTOS

VOLKSKAS BUILDING 76 MARKET STREET
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICAN
RHODESIAN

ASBESTOS FIBRES

All Grades - All Types

P. O. Box 11000 **Cable: SOTSEBSA**

ASBESTOS TEXTILES

US RUBBER

are manufactured in our own modern plant at Stark Mills, Hogansville, Ga. Spinning and weaving operations are closely controlled for maximum uniformity in asbestos yarns, fabrics and tapes. Specialties developed to meet customers' requirements.

Write: Asbeston® Dept., Textile Division

UNITED STATES RUBBER COMPANY

1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York 20, N.Y.

NEWS OF THE INDUSTRY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Philip A. Meyer, President, Nicolet Asbestos Mines, Ltd., Norbestos, Que., Canada, April 16.

Robert W. Weaver, Vice President, Grant Wilson, Inc., Chicago, Ill., April 16.

Joseph D Francis, Secretary-Treasurer, Asbestos Products, Inc., St. Paul, Minn., April 17.

Lorne Bain, President, Asbestos Erectors of Canada, Ltd., Montreal, Canada, April 19.

Alvan D. Simpson, President, Asbestos Erectors, Inc., Bound Brook, N. J., April 19.

George A. MacLellan, Managing Director, George MacLellan & Co., Glasgow, Scotland, April 19.

Guy H. Montmartin, President, Alpine Mining Corporation, New York City, April 21.

H. J. Dowd, First Vice President, Smith Asbestos Products, Inc., Millington, N J., April 22.

John R. Skidmore, Secretary-Treasurer, Pacific Asbestos-Cement Products, San Barnardino, Calif., April 22.

H. B. Johnson, District Manager, Philip Carey Mfg. Company, Chicago, Ill., April 23.

Joseph Matulicz, Partner, Amity Asbestos Associates, Brooklyn, N. Y, April 26.

Frank R. Hickory, President, Asbestos Products Inc., St.Paul., Minn., April 27.

J. Carroll Johnston, President & Treasurer, Atlas Asbestos Company, North Wales, Pa., April 28.

Merlin W. Simon, Secretary, Sprinkmann Sons Corp., Hillside, Wis., April 30.

Richard H. Jaffer, President, York Insulation Co., Inc., Hillside, N. J., May 1.

R. G. Bennett, Roofing Manager, A. H. Bennett Co., Minneapolis, Minn., May 4.

Gerard A. Reynolds, Vice President, Armor Products Inc., New York City, May 4.

S. E. Josi, Director, Johns-Manville Co., Ltd., London, England, May 5.

C. G. Dandrow, Vice President, Johns-Manville Sales Corp., New York City, May 12.

L. M. Cassidy, Chairman of the Board, Johns-Manville Sales Corp., New York City, May 13.

L. T. Bennett, Vice President, A. H. Bennett Co., Minneapolis, Minn., May 14.

John L. Anderson, Vice President, Asbestos Products Inc., St. Paul, Minn., May 15.

CABLE ADDRESS METABEST

METATE ASBESTOS CORPORATION

Producers of

ARIZONA CHRYSOTILE CRUDES

and

FILTERATION FIBRE

Mines & Mill:
SAN CARLOS
INDIAN RESERVATION
GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA

P.O. BOX 1506
GLOBE, ARIZONA

INDUSTRIAL SERVICE COMPANY

Builders of

ASBESTOS CEMENT MACHINERY

Our experienced engineers and machinists offer the industry entire machines built to deliver maximum production.

Your Inquiries Are Invited

1-51 Paterson Avenue E. Rutherford, N. J.

A. M. Ehret, Sr., Chairman, Ehret Magnesia Mfg. Co., Valley Forge, Pa., May 15.

To all these gentlemen we extend congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of their birthdays.

NATIONAL GYPSUM COMPANY ANNUAL REPORT

National Gypsum Company reported its sales in 1955 jumped $21,570,492 over 1954 to set a new record of $138,219,476. The company also reported new records for earnings, assets and expansion of its facilities.

Chairman Melvin H. Baker, releasing highlights of the annual report said 1955 profits jumped $2,619,562 over the previous year to a new record of $15,763,690. This was a rise of 20 per cent even though the previous year included profit of $1,028,798 from the sale of the company's Canadian shipping subsidiary.

Earnings last year were equal to $4.61 a share on 3,321,135 shares of common stock including 65,077 shares for a 2 per cent stock dividend issued January 3.

National Gypsum in 1955 completed expansions of its New York City and Baltimore gypsum processing plants and opened a new gypsum mine and plant in Indiana. It began shipping gypsum rock from the development of its vast Nova Scotia operation and it opened a new paint plant in New Jersey.

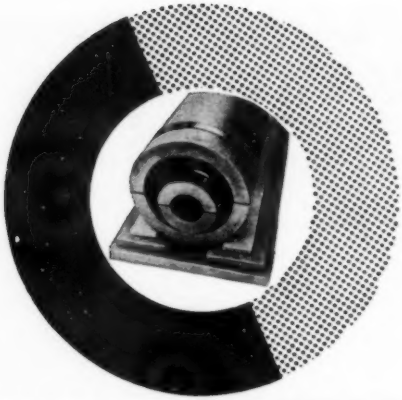
Mr. Baker reported that most of his company's plants operated at capacity in 1955 and that the company still has large backlogs of unshipped orders. Additional capacity from new plants coming into production this year is expected to provide for increased sales in 1956.

Imports of Asbestos by United Kingdom

Raw Material

		January 1956 Tons (2240 lbs.)
From:	Union of South Africa	1,648
	Basutoland, Bechuanaland & Swaziland	169
	Rhodesian Federation	4,540
	Canada	2,002
	Other Commonwealth Countries and the Irish Republic	661
	Foreign Countries	57
		9,077

These figures were supplied by Reuters Economic Services, Johannesburg.



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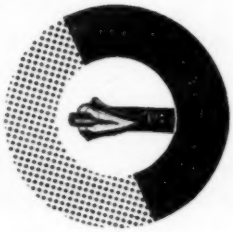
For your most exacting insulation requirements

Unibestos No. 750 pipe covering • Unibestos No. 1200 pipe covering • Unibestos block • Asbestos textiles • Asbestos packings • Asbestos gaskets • Asbestos gasket cloth and tape • Asbestos fiber • Insutape pipe insulation • Insutube pipe insulation • Wovenstone pipe insulation • Thermal insulating tape • Insubestos felt • Fabricated speciaity insulation



UNARCO ®

write for illustrated Brochure

UNION ASBESTOS AND RUBBER COMPANY

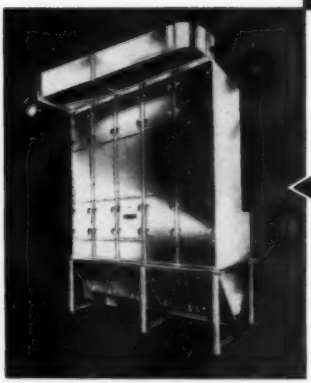
332 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE — Chicago 4, Illinois

FOR THE ASBESTOS PROCESSING INDUSTRY...

"ENTOLETER" IMPACT MILL...

the modern, high efficiency equipment for asbestos guarantees fiberizing various grades without fiber-degradation.

- extremely low maintenance costs
- highest capacity per hp. available in fiberizing equipment



"ENTOLETER" SIMON SUCTION FILTER DUST COLLECTOR...

for the most efficient dust recovery.

- low cost per square foot of filter area
- uniform air flow
- high air to cloth ratios
- long filter cloth life
- low power requirements
- all aluminum construction

For further information concerning "ENTOLETER" equipment contact:

LYNN MACLEOD ENGINEERING SUPPLIES, LTD.
THETFORD MINES, QUEBEC, CANADA

ENTOLETER DIVISION
The Safety Car Heating and Lighting Company, Inc.
1199 Dixwell Ave., New Haven 4, Connecticut

Antony Gibbs & Co., Inc.

61 Broadway

New York 6, New York

Tel. Digby 4-6580

Sole Distributors in North America of

ASBESTOS FIBRES

Offered by

S. A. ASBESTOS TRADING (PTY.) LTD.

Johannesburg

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Vanguard Asbestos Mines
Boss Asbestos Mines
Associated Asbestos Mines

Grades: Spinning, 3Z, 4H, 5R, 6D, 7M

UNION CHRYSOTILE

Scottro Asbestos Mines

CAPE BLUE

Kuruman Cape Blue Asbestos

Grades: 1, 2, 3

TRANSVAAL BLUE

Baboon Asbestos Co.
Springbok Asbestos Co.

Grades: TD1, TD2, TD3, TD4

GOLDEN AGE MINES LIMITED

The Golden Age Mines Limited of Toronto, Canada, recently acquired an additional 383.03 acres of property contiguous to the present workings and the Directors feel that the acquisition is of great importance to the future operations of Golden Age Mines Limited.

The property acquired consists of Lot #6 in the 1st Range and Lot 299 in Range St. Charles adjoining the north side of the property and Lots 9A, 9B and #10 in Range #1 adjoining the property on the south side.

Engineer-Geologist, Paul H. Lachance has advised that if the anomaly found on Lots 9A, 9B and 10 is proven to be of the same nature in asbestos content as that found on Lot 8 it would produce approximately 5,000,000 additional tons of material of one grade. This would bring his estimate up to a total of 10,000,000 or 12,000,000 tons on lower section of the property.

With this added acreage the Company now has control of approximately 942.29 acres without consideration of any ground covered by the Bartlett option.

The Directors plan to resume active exploration on the property about April 1st by diamond drilling the extension of the present ore body on Lots 9A, 9B and 10 and on other as yet undetermined sections. Further effort will be directed to extending the presently known ore body to the north from Pit#8 to the vicinity of Hole #42 by open pit operation.

RAYBESTOS-MANHATTAN, INC.
Annual Report

Annual Report of Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., for 1955 shows net income of $3,738,496, or $5.95 per share. For 1954 net income was $2,798,094, or $4.45 per share.

Net sales in 1955 were $82,905,705, compared with $66,769,939 in 1954.

Detailed figures for 1955 follow. Comparable figures for 1954 are given on page 43 of our April 1955 number.

Net Sales	$82,905,705
Manufacturing Cost of Sales	63,566,765
Gross Profit	19,338,940
Selling Administrative & General Expense	12,830,575
Profit from Operations	6,508,365
Other Income, Discount, Interest, etc.	913,131
Total income before taxes	7,421,496
Provision for Taxes	3,683,000
Net Income Transferred to Surplus	3,738,496
Surplus as of December 31, 1955	$30,427,675

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SURVEY OF THE ASBESTOS PRODUCTS INDUSTRY (JAPAN)

This survey, by Mr. Kensaku Inayoshi, President of Japan Asbestos Products Association, appeared in the autumn 1955 issue of "The Look Japan" magazine.

The article covers a history of asbestos cloth manufactured in Japan, post-war production, raw material situation and organization, quality of asbestos products and exports of asbestos products. It also contains interesting photos and charts.

"ASBESTOS" will be glad to lend a copy to any interested reader.

CURRENT RANGE OF PRICE

As of April 10, 1956

Arizona—	Per Ton of 2,000 lbs., f.o.b. Globe, Arizona		
No. 1 Crude (soft)	$1,500.00	to	$1,750.00
No. 2 Crude (soft)	900.00	to	1,050.00
No. 3 Crude (soft)	400.00	to	450.00
Filter Fibre (soft)	250.00	to	450.00
No. 1 Crude (semi-soft)	1,200.00	to	1,500.00
No. 2 Crude (semi-soft)	900.00		
No. 3 Crude (semi soft)	400.00		

Canada—	Per Ton 2000 lbs. f.o.b. Mine		
Group No. 1 (Crude No. 1)	$1,400.00	to	$1,725.00
Group No. 2 Crude No. 2; Crude Run-of-Mine and Sundry	750.00	to	1,100.00
Group No. 3 (Spining Fibre)	350.00	to	575.00
Group No. 4 (Shingle Fibre)	170.00	to	225.00
Group No. 5 (Paper Fibre)	110.00	to	140.00
Group No. 6 (Waste, Stucco or Plaster)			82.00
Group No. 7 (Refuse or Shorts)	38.00	to	75.00

Vermont— Per Ton of 2000 lbs. f.o.b. Hyde Park or Morrisville, Vt.			
Group No. 3 (Spinning & Filtering)	$ 353.00	to	$ 383.00
Group No. 4 (Shingle Fibre)	172.00	to	190.00
Group No. 5 (Paper Fibre)	114.00	to	145.00
Group No. 6 (Waste, Stucco or Plaster)			82.00
Group No. 7 (Refuse or Shorts)	39.00	to	72.00

TWO (2) NEW "CHRISTY & NORRIS"

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MINES AND MILL IN GILA COUNTY

J-M TO BUILD PLANT
ON WEST COAST

Johns-Manville will build a new insulating board plant near Klamath Falls, Oregon, as part of the company's $30,000,000 expansion program now underway in the Pacific Coast area.

The initial estimates indicate that the ultimate cost of the plant, and timberlands to be purchased, may reach $12,000,000. The plant is expected to be in operation by the middle of 1957. It will create immediate employment for about 250 people with an initial payroll of $1,000,000. Construction plans provide for future expansion.

ASBESTOS STOCK QUOTATIONS

These figures are compiled from the Commercial & Financial Chronicle. No guarantee as to their correctness.)

	MARCH 1956			
	Par	Low	High	Last
Amer. Br. Shoe (Com.)	np	41	43⅞	42
Amer. Br. Shoe (Pfd.)	100	104½	109½	105½
Armst. Ck. (Com).	1	32¼	37¾	37¼
Armst. Ck. (Pfd.)	np	96	101½	96
Asbestos Corp. (Com).	np	40¾	45	43⅞
Carey (Com.)	10	28	29⅛	28¼
Cassiar Asb. Corp.	np	$8.25	10⅝	10¼
Celotex (Com.)	np	38	42¼	40⅞
Celotex (Pfd.)	20	19¼	19⅞	19⅝
Certainteed (Com.)	1	26⅛	29¼	28½
Dominion Asb. Mines	1	19c	26¾c	25¼c
Flintkote (Com.)	np	38⅛	39¾	38¾
Flintkote (Pfd.)	np	104	105½	104
Johns-Manville (New Com.)	5	47½	51½	51½
Natl. Gypsum (Com.)	1	51	58	57⅛
Natl. Gypsum (Pfd.)	np	103½	104¾	103½
Pabco Products (Com.)	np	33⅜	40¼	39¾
Pabco Products (Pfd)	100	112	125	125
Ray-Man (Com.)	np	54¾	57¼	56½
Ruberoid (Com.)	1	35⅝	38¼	38⅛
Thermoid (Com.)	1	12	14⅛	14
Thermoid (Pfd.)	50	47	51	51
Union Asb. & Rub. (Com.)	5	7	7¾	7⅜
United Asb. (Com.)	1	$7.40	$8.00	$7.80
U. S. Gypsum (Com.)	4	59¼	72	70⅜
U. S. Gypsum (Pfd.)	100	177½	181	179
U. S. Rubber (Com.)	5	56⅛	60⅜	60⅜
U. S. Rubber (Pfd.)	100	166¼	170	166¼

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UNIVERSAL ASBESTOS MFG. COMPANY

Universal Asbestos Manufacturing Company has improved on the substantial recovery reported a year ago. Group gross profits to October 2 last are more than 60 per cent up at £330,000, against £202,000 and net equity earnings of 77.7 per cent provide nearly fourfold cover for the dividend, increased from 17½ per cent to 20 per cent. The company manufactures asbestos-cement roofing sheets, rain-water goods and other buiding products for which there is a strong demand overseas as well as in the home market. Production has been materially assisted by the installation of plant for bulk handling of cement two years ago and by subsequent extensions to the works at Watford. Manufacture is also being undertaken in East Africa to meet the demands of the growing local market and to overcome the limitations imposed by shipping and port facilities. Much of the company's production is for industrial building where long-term contracts should help maintain activity, while the over-seas trade may be expected to benefit from developments in Africa and elsewhere.

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JOHNS-MANVILLE CORPORATION
Annual Meeting

Johns-Manville sales of building and industrial products for the first two months of 1956 are "running comfortably ahead of sales for the same period of 1955," according to L. M. Cassidy, Chairman of the Board.

He told stockholders at their annual meeting on March 9, 1956, that the opportunities for Johns-Manville in 1956 "may be even better than last year".

Stockholders approved a proposal by the Board of Directors to change the authorized shares of Johns-Manville common stock from 4,500,000 of no par value to 25,000,000 of $5 par value and split the existing shares on a two-for-one basis. Outstanding shares, after the split, will total about 6,400,000.

In reviewing the company's finances for 1955 which showed a record sales high of $284¾ million and second highest earnings of $23½ million and $7.37 per share, Mr. Cassidy pointed out that Johns-Manville earnings in 1955 "would have established an all-time high" had it not been for the company's decision several years ago to adopt a conservation accounting policy calling for a marked acceleration of depreciation charges.

A. R. Fisher, President of Johns-Manville Corporation, reviewed the company's physical growth from 1927, when the company began the transition from limited to widespread public ownership, to the present time.

NATIONAL GYPSUM COMPANY

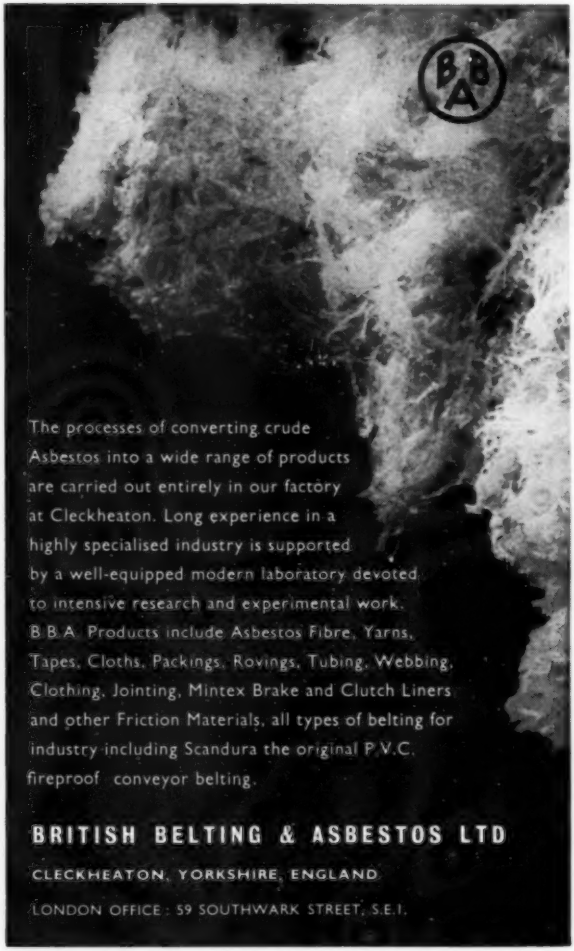
Board Chairman Melvin H. Baker of National Gypsum Company recently revealed that development work will begin soon on a new multi-million dollar asbestos mine and plant at Thetford Mines, 75 miles south-west of Quebec.

The new mine and plant will supply asbestos fibre to National Gypsum Company's three asbestos-cement plants at Millington, N. J., St. Louis, Mo. and New Orleans, La.

National Gypsum last year purchased a tract of land from Bell Asbestos Mines Ltd., a subsidiary of Turner-Newall, London. The company since has acquired land and now owns a 500 acre tract.

The new mine and plant will be operated under the name of National Asbestos Mines Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of National Gypsum Co.

The project is expected to be completed in 1958. Service buildings and roads will be constructed this year. Development work on the mine will be started either late this year or early next year.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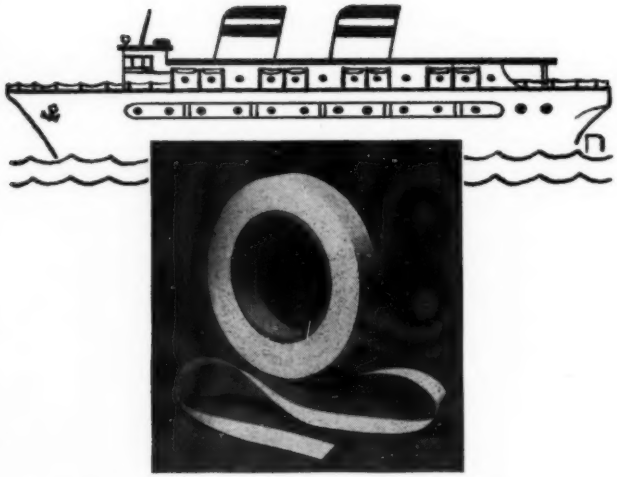

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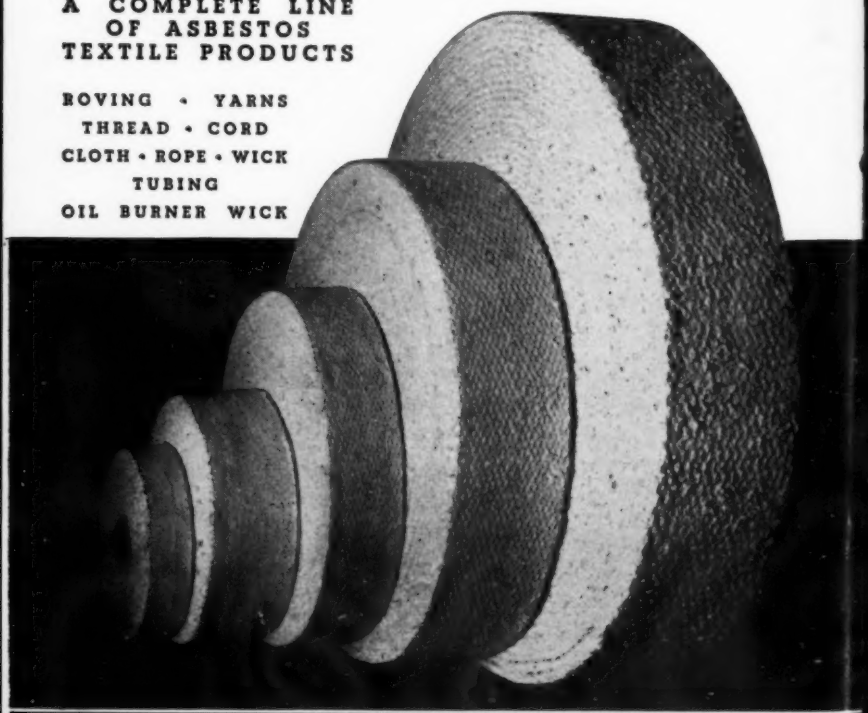

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